

DETAILED ACTION

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 9-17 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Closest prior art of record are U. S. Patent No. 6,100,626 to Frey et al. (Abstract and Figs. 1 and 3); U. S. Patent No. 7,063,066 to Weng et al (Abstract and Fig. 7c); and U. S. Patent No. 5,300,068 to Rosar et al (Abstract and Fig. 3); none of the prior art alone or in combination teaches an ultrasonic probe comprising a piezoelectric element; a sensor signal substrate and sensor ground substrate connected electrically to the piezoelectric element; a cable substrate that connects the sensor signal substrate and sensor ground substrate with the signal line and the ground line; wherein the sensor signal substrate and ground substrate and connected directly or via a relay ground substrate; and atleast part of the cable substrate is covered with the sensor ground substrate or relay ground substrate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SANJAY CATTUNGAL whose telephone number is (571)272-1306. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SPC

/Long V Le/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3768